

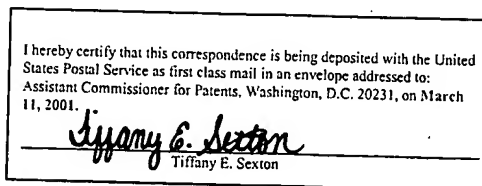


2836

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

Inventors: SMITH et al.)
)
For: RESPIRATORY)
HUMIDIFICATION SYSTEM)
)
Serial No.: 10/057,677)
)
Filed: January 25, 2002)
)
Art Unit: 2836)
)
Atty Docket No.: 1171/40038/110)



RECEIVED
MAR 25 2002
TC 2800 MAIL ROOM

**TRANSMITTAL OF CERTIFIED COPY
REGARDING CONVENTION CLAIM UNDER 35 U.S.C. §119**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In completion of Applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 for United States Patent application, please find enclosed a true copy of the Provisional Specification as filed on 31 January 2001 with an application for Letters Patent number 509656.

It is believed that this completes Applicant's claim for priority and acknowledgment of receipt of this priority document is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 11, 2002

By:

Raiford A. Blackstone, Reg. No. 25,156
Linda L. Palomar, Reg. No. 37, 903
TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI,
BLACKSTONE & MARR, LTD.
105 West Adams Street, 36th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603-6299
Tel: (312) 704-1890